

## THE INITIATIVE



Dolphin  
Image: Digital Vision

Planet Ocean is a major, long-term initiative that allows the Museum to showcase the past, present and future of the oceans.

The marine environment is the unifying theme of the initiative.

### Aims and objectives

The core aims of the initiative are to:

- establish the Museum as a leader in promoting the public understanding of humankind's relationship with the oceans
- present and interpret the issues surrounding this subject in inspirational, responsible and effective ways
- develop the relationship between the Museum, key stakeholders and the public.

### Key themes of the initiative

The key themes of this innovative and long-term initiative are:

- [oceans and environmental change](#)
- [biodiversity](#)
- [ocean resources](#)

- [pollution and conservation](#)
- [deep-sea exploration, navigation and discovery](#)
- [citizenship, communities and sustainable development](#)
- [media and the environment](#)

## Planet Ocean – the context

The oceans are diverse, complex systems and hold great wonder and fascination. They cover two-thirds of the Earth's surface and have an average depth of two miles. Their volume accounts for 97% of the planet's living space and supports a tremendous variety of life.



They also represent the last great frontier for human exploration and discovery on the planet. Until recently, very little was known about what was hidden in the deep oceans. Modern technology allows us to explore some of these areas, although still at quite considerable risk. Such exploration will continue to make major contributions to our general understanding and appreciation of the oceans.

The Newt Suit, © NMM London

The oceans are the delicately-balanced life-support system for planet Earth. They influence world climate and providing essential resources. They have inspired art and culture for civilizations throughout the planet and contribute billions of pounds to the global economy.



A heavily-littered beach in Turkey  
© NMM

Yet our growing needs are straining this balance. Some of the many dangers facing the world's oceans include:

- declining fish stocks
- increasing levels of marine debris and beach litter
- vanishing coral reefs
- pollution disasters

The Museum is an ideal platform to promote public awareness of the importance the conservation and sustainable development of the oceans to us all.